



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
District of North Dakota

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Belcourt Man Pleads Guilty to Assault

BISMARCK - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on July 16, 2010, **Austin M. DeCoteau**, 28, of Belcourt, North Dakota, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Daniel L. Hovland to a charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

On April 5, 2008, DeCoteau and the victim were drinking at Nutty'z Bar in Belcourt, and they continued to drink there after the bar closed. Video surveillance obtained from Nutty'z depicted DeCoteau and the victim sitting across from one another at the bar. DeCoteau reached across the bar and struck the victim in the face. DeCoteau then came around the bar and struck the victim in the face again. The victim was taken to the hospital and treated for a fractured jaw.

The charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury carries a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Turtle Mountain Agency.

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Sentencing for DeCoteau has been scheduled for October 18, 2010, in United States District Court in Minot, North Dakota, at 10:00 a.m.

Assistant United States Attorney Brandi Sasse Russell is prosecuting the case.

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